Central Status to Universities in M.P.

†702. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have refused the proposal of Government of Madhya Pradesh for granting Central Status to Bhopal University, Sagar University and Rewa University;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The National Policy on Education, 1986, as modified in 1992, states that the main emphasis will be on consolidation of facilities rather than on their expansion. Given the necessity to arrest the declining trend in the flow of plan funds from the UGC to state universities and colleges, the severe constraint of resources and the need to provide adequate infrastructure in newer Central Universities established in the North-East, the Government is not in a position to consider the proposal for according Central University status to Bhopal, Sagar and Rewa Universities at present.

Gender Gap

703. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent Report of the World Economic Forum on gender gap which places India at 53rd position amongst 58 countries;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that this is primarily due to invisibility of women's contribution to the economy as their contributory work done especially in agricultural operations, forest-related activities in hills, substaining family network, household chores, etc. is not counted for economic value; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not evolving modalities whereby such contributions are duly counted for economic value?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.